ONLINE PUB NEWS

To foster journalistic excellence and hone the creative skills of learners, campus journalists under the category of online publishing converged during the second day of the Division Schools Press Conference (DSPC) held in Miputak East Central School on March 9, 2024.

Partaken by different schools, the competition kicked off with an orientation to both collaborative desktop publishing and online publishing spearheaded by Sir Al L. Cantery, Master Teacher of Pamansalan Elementary School.

“Always follow the heart,” Cantery embarked on.
w
For the English category, schools from Andres Bonifacio College (ABC), Dipolog Medical Center (DMC), and Zamboanga del Norte National High School (ZNNHS) in Turno were aiming for gold.

And Zamboanga del Norte National High School (ZNNHS) Turno for the Filipino category. The highlighted competition is aimed at developing and enhancing the talents and skills of participants in online publishing.

This year’s DSPC bears the theme “Charting Truth: Journalism as a Catalyst for Positive Change in the Media Landscape of 2024,” emphasizing a trustworthy society that addresses the community's needs.

The award-winning scribes will be acknowledged during the closing program in the presence of key DepEd officials.

Zamboanga City launches RSPC 2025: “Para sa Makatarungan at Makabuluhang Pagbabago”

Campus journalists from different regions flaunted their skills and talents as Zamboanga City launched the 2025 Regional Schools Press Conference (RSPC) on March 5 at Don Pablo Lorenzo Memorial High School, showcasing the theme “Talino at Sining ng Pamamahayag: Lakas ng Kabataan para sa Makatarungan at Makabuluhang Pagbabago.”

The Honorable (blablabla) proudly opened the 3-day event and presented the delegates from the feight districts, along with their school paper advisers and coaches, swarming the first day.

“It is with immense gratitude and excitement that I stand before you today to celebrate a monumental moment in our journey. Today marks not just the culmination of hard work, vision, and dedication, but also the beginning of countless opportunities for growth, learning, and progress,” the (blablabla) expressed his/her inspirational message.

On days one and two, the conference embodies a series of sessions and contests that cover each specific category, from individual to group. The third day, March 7, is set to be the awarding ceremony.

Furthermore, the Regional Schools Press Conference (RSPC) is a preparation to provide each learner the opportunity to use their skills and talents for their future.

Mayor Uy honors outstanding workers at the 2024 PRAISE and Mayor's Special Recognition Awarding Ceremony

On December 20, the City Mayor of Dipolog, Darel Dexter T. Uy, personally honored outstanding workers during the 2024 PRAISE and Mayor's Special Recognition Awarding Ceremony, held alongside the annual Christmas Program, recognizing their exceptional contributions to public service.

In his heartfelt message, Mayor Uy said, “Congratulations to all the awardees. Your achievements reflect your commitment to public service and your tireless pursuit of excellence. You are the true pillars of our community.”

The ceremony highlighted several prestigious awards, including Model Employee of the Year, Job Order Worker of the Year, and the Mayor’s Special Recognition Award, which celebrate the hard work and dedication of those who go above and beyond in serving the city.

“The nominees here are already the best among the best. You are winners in our hearts, and your work is invaluable to our shared mission,” Ms. Rosemarie P. Miranda, Chairperson of the PRAISE Committee, also shared her inspiring message.

The event was a poignant reminder of the collective effort that drives Dipolog City forward. Mayor Uy emphasized this in his closing remarks, “Today is not just about awards; it’s about honoring the invaluable contributions of every individual who has helped build this city. May we continue to move forward together, with hope, faith, and love guiding us.”

The ceremony was a celebration of more than just recognition—it was a testament to the hard work, dedication, and spirit of the people who make Dipolog City a better place for all.

Dipolog City switches on PASADI 2024

December 6, 2024 – Dipolog City embodied the Christmas spirit and festive season during the opening of Pasko sa Dipolog 2024 (PASADI) and the highly anticipated Switch on Ceremony at Rizal Avenue fronting Museo Dipolog.

“This evening as we switch on the lights of our city, let us also switch on the lights of our hearts of kindness, generosity, and gratitude. Let's look forward to a brighter and better 2025 for all of us here in Dipolog City and the entire province of Zamboanga del Norte,” Mayor Darel Uy enthused in his opening speech.

The night was filled with excitement as various districts of Dipolog took the stage, showcasing numerous performances. As the crowd gathered, Mayor Darel Dexter T. Uy stepped to flip the switch, lighting up the streets, and surrounding Museo Dipolog with vibrant and glowing lights.

Following the lighting of Christmas lights, the night continued with stunning performances by local talents, featuring Beng Eway, Mark Jones Duran, Micah Tuazon, Mary Ann Cabalida, and Road 21.

As the lights illuminated Dipolog City, PASADI marked the start of the holiday season and rekindled the spirit of unity among its community.

Philippines Enacts Maritime Laws Amidst Rising Tensions with China and Malaysia

As tensions in the South China Sea escalated, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. signed an execution of two significant laws—the Philippine Maritime Zones Act and the Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act—on November 7, 2024, which aim to defend and claim its maritime boundaries and rights in the South China Sea.

The Philippine Maritime Zones Act (Republic Act No. 12064) aligns with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which portrays the country’s maritime zones, together with its internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone, and continental shelf.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act appoints the regulation of maritime traffic around the Philippine waters for the security of the country’s maritime environment.

Hence, the enactment of these laws has created tensions with neighboring countries, particularly China and Malaysia.

Mao Ning, China’s Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, opposed the new laws as the legislation is considered “illegal, null, and void," violating China’s territorial claims in the region.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mohamad Alamin lodged a formal protest, defending Malaysia's sovereignty regarding the inclusion of Sabah within the Philippines' territorial claims.

The Philippine government’s recently signed laws strengthen its commitment to protecting its maritime entitlements. However, the rising feud between neighboring countries highlights their concerns over the inherent regional maritime disputes.

CLIMATE CHANGE CYCLONES THE PHILIPPINES

Within October and November 2024, the Philippines encountered six tropical cyclones in three weeks, resulting in at least 150 fatalities and damaging agricultural and economic losses. Recent scientific studies highlighted the country's increasing vulnerability to typhoons due to climate change, increasing the frequency of deadly storms.

A study by World Weather Attribution (WWA) discovered that the formation of multiple typhoons in the region was approximately 70% due to a global temperature increase of 1.3°C, leading to the development of more severe tropical storms.

The probability of at least three category 3-5 typhoons hitting the country in a year has risen by 25%, posing a significant planning for disaster preparedness and resilience.

Damages from tropical cyclones have already reduced Filipino household incomes by 7%, expecting an annual increase of 7.2% by the year 2050.

The increasing frequency of typhoons in the Philippines due to climate change, emphasizes the need for covering adaptation and mitigation strategies. These typhoons are established to nourish every Filipino’s disaster preparedness and participation in global efforts to guard the nation’s future.

SURVEY NEWS

Turno-Nationalians see lack of inclusivity support, survey says

Students of Turno Campus have raised alarm over the insufficient support for inclusive education, highlighting the challenges faced by students with disabilities in accessing equal learning opportunities.

In a recent survey, 35.4% of the respondents were unsure if the school was inclusive of students with disabilities, 33.1% voted yes, and 31.5% believed that the school was not inclusive. Despite the school's efforts to create a conducive environment that fosters inclusiveness, the survey among students revealed otherwise.

Moreover, Mrs. Virginia E. Tagab, School Principal II, promised to create a better academic foundation fostering inclusivity and equality.

“I believe that the school is still progressing in inclusivity towards PWD students through following the DepEd Order of Inclusive Education,” Tagab expressed.

The Department of Health (DOH) reported that there are roughly around 2.2 million Filipinos who are disabled. This report highlights a large portion of a pivotal concern to strengthen inclusive learning.

SPEECH NEWS

“NO ONE LEFT BEHIND”

Senator Hontiveros graces SOGIE forum for youth, students

DIPOLOG CITY — Senator Risa Hontiveros underscored her commitment to inclusivity and equality as she led a pivotal forum on sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression (SOGIE) for students and youth at Museo de Dipolog on Monday, October 14, 2024.

Titled “Promoting Inclusion and Innovation through SOGIE,” the event brought together students from leading academic institutions in Dipolog, including DMC College Foundation, Andres Bonifacio College, Jose Rizal Memorial State University, Zamboanga del Norte National High School – Turno, and the Dipag Rainbow Collective.

Sen. Hontiveros, an advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community, was welcomed by Mayor Darel Dexter Uy and former Mayor Evelyn Uy. Her visit began with a tour of the museum’s visual art exhibit and historical displays, which celebrated the rich heritage of the Subanen tribe and the cultural roots of Dipolog.

During the forum, Hontiveros engaged in a dialogue with the student attendees, focusing on the proposed SOGIE Equality Bill which aims to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. She emphasized the critical need to establish safe spaces and ensure equal opportunities for all, irrespective of gender.

We must ensure that no one is left behind in the fight for equality. This bill is one step closer to securing a future where everyone, regardless of their identity, can live freely and with dignity.”

In her closing remarks, former Mayor Evelyn Uy praised Sen. Hontiveros for her commitment to defending the rights of marginalized communities and thanked the coordinators, students, and participants for their engagement.

BATANG DIPAG, ABANTE: BUSTALIÑO HIGHLIGHTS SCHOOL VISION AND PROGRESSION IN SOLGA 2024

via Prox Balbuena

“Lihok, Batang Dipag, ug wagtanga ang kasakit.”

With a heart for service and a vision for a progressive future, Juvimee Bustaliño, the Supreme Secondary Learner Government (SSLG) President, stood before thousands of Nationalians as she delivered her speech which aims to create school implementations that ambitions for a better community in the State of the Learner Government Address (SOLGA) on August 19, 2024.

The speech started with words filled with brightness as Bustaliño shared how things would improve in the future through successful leadership, a foresight filled with hope, and the mission of student leaders. She then continued to express how the project is aligned with the core values of DepEd: Makatao, Maka-Diyos, Makabansa, at Makakarunungan.

“We, the student leaders, whom you have enabled and empowered to serve you, will support you in achieving the bright future you envision for yourselves and the better and improved future we desire for our city, our country, and our world,” Bustaliño uttered as she states her plans and visions for the school year.

“Students of Dipolog, always remember to hope! And with hope, take action! Lagi't laging para sa bata, para sa bayan,” she continued.

“It is of most importance that students of the entire Dipolog City would know the programs and projects that are available to them, especially when it comes to learner formation, [and] learner protection and rights because it is a vital aspect of the student experience in school because we have to protect always the rights of the children and learners,” Cielbert Dondoyano Jr., Learner Formator - PDO I, stated in an interview.

Furthermore, the SOLGA also addressed the plans and projects of the SSLG through the leadership of Bustaliño for the school year 2024-2025 and hopes that the implementations they intend will not go in vain, but will continue to flourish.

SPEECH NEWS

Abao advocates action to fight misinformation

With a heart of sincerity and factualness, Ronald Randolf E. Abao, Special Science Teacher III, addresses her reflective remarks as she led to enhance the quality of spreading factual information to establish media literacy for each individual at a mini-conference in Zamboanga del Norte National High School-Turno (ZNNHS-T) on Friday, January 10, 2024.

The speech started with words filled with (...) as Abao shared how (...).

MISINFORMATION
(statement niya about ani)

DISINFORMATION
(statement)

MALINFORMATION
(statement)

During the conference, she highlighted the Philippine 1987 Constitutional Law (Bill of Rights) under Article III, section IV, which protects the right to express oneself freely, assemble peacefully, and disseminate information without undue government interference.

“Speech layout”

In her closing remarks, Ronald Abao (....).

DSPC NEWS

Scribes exhibit journalistic excellence in DSPC 2025

DSPC IS BACK AT IT AGAIN!

In an exhibition of 21st-century journalistic prowess, an estimated 100 campus journalists across Dipolog City converged at the Division Schools Press Conference (DSPC) 2024, aiming to foster the transformative power of campus journalism at the Zamboanga del Norte National High School-Turno on January 9-11, 2024.

Education Program Supervisor in English, Dr. Rosalio B. Conturno eagerly welcomed the delegates from the four Dipolog districts, which elementary and secondary students attended.

The event's guest speaker, Dr. Amelinda D. Montero, Chief of, Curriculum Implementation Division, CESE, graced the conference and expressed the utmost significance of journalism in our lives.

SDS Tabilon delivered her speech, leaving contestants inspired by her words: “(statement).”

This year’s DSPC theme is “Talino at Sining ng Pamamahayag: Lakas ng Kabataan para sa Makatarungan at Makabuluhang Pagbabago,” which exhibits the power of the youth to address societal issues for positive transformation.

The highlighted competition of pens aims to (...)

A notable moment of the event included the Journalists’ Creed led by Elloise Julia A. Necesario from Zamboanga del Norte National High School-Turno and an NSPC 2024 Most Outstanding Journalist of Region 9.

Moreover, Dr. Ma. Liza R. Tabilon, EDD CESO V formally declared the commencement of the three-day conference. Igniting joy among students.

The award-winning pieces of scribes will take place in the closing program, acknowledging learners for their journalistic excellence in the platform where any are called but only a few are chosen.

DSPC SPEECH NEWS

DSP 2024 takes center stage, (name) vows to highlight journalism's importance

Fostering journalistic excellence and upholding a responsible society, the (position) (name) oppressed the utmost significance of campus journalism during the opening of the Division Schools Press Conference (DSPC), held in Zamboanga del Norte National High School-Turno on January 9, 2024.

According to (position with name), (statement).

"(statement)," (surname) remarked.

Furthermore, she/he conveyed her enthusiasm to continue emphasizing fora trustworthy society that addresses the needs of the community.

"This conference is a platform worthy of honing skills and attitudes towards responsible citizens," Tabilan uttered.

She added, leaving contestants inspired by her words: "Take this chance to elevate the power of campus journalism as you, journalists, are the hope of the nation!"

In previous years, this highlighted competition (significance sa dspc).

DRONE NEWS

Underwater Drone discovered in Bicol Region, prompting National Security Investigation

A remotely operated submersible drone was discovered by local fishermen near Barangay Iniwaran in San Pascual in the Bicol Region on December 30, 2024.

The underwater drone is labeled “HY-119” and is approximately six feet long, composed of PVC and metal but was immediately deactivated when discovered.

Assistant Director General of the National Security Council (NSC), Jonathan Malaya proved that the drone was used for reconnaissance and surveillance, posing issues about its origin and past activities within the Philippine waters.

Malaya together with the Philippine Navy is still investigating the origin and purpose of the drone which is currently in custody, and highlighted the national security implications of the drone, considering its Chinese markings.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is also involved in the investigation and focuses on tracing the drone’s vessel movements in the area and whether it was linked to any illegal activities.

Moreover, the Philippines is working with foreign counterparts to gather details about the incident but no country, including China, has yet claimed ownership of the drone.

The investigation of the underwater drone is still ongoing and the country is focusing on safeguarding its territorial rights, ensuring no unauthorized activities within its waters.

RICE NEWS

RICE-FOR-ALL: Department of Agriculture cuts rice prices

Department of Agriculture (DA) plans to reduce rice prices under the “Rice-for-All” initiative in January 2025.

The “Rice-for-All” program began in Metro Manila markets, and DA plans to introduce additional affordable rice varieties.

SULIT RICE
The rice is entirely broken but is still of good quality, ranging from ₱35 to ₱36 per kilo.

NUTRI RICE
The rice is in between well-milled and brown rice with more nutrients, ranging from ₱37 to ₱38 per kilo.

Previous prices of last year 2024, were dropping from ₱45 to finally reaching ₱40 per kilo, making more retailers lower their prices to match the government’s initiative.

As the program runs, the first quarter of 2025 is expected to pose challenges for farmers, in La Niña, affecting rice production.

Agriculture Secretary, Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. led a meeting on January 3, to plan the removal of brands on rice products, focusing on eliminating the cause of premium rice imports from justifying high prices through marketing tactics.

NEWS

Hammerhead: STRIKE OUT LIES

Abao urges action to combat misinformation

With a heart of sincerity and factualness, Ronald Randolf E. Abao, Special Science Teacher III, addresses her reflective remarks as she leads a mini-conference to enhance the quality of spreading factual information for each individual in Zamboanga del Norte National High School-Turno on Friday, January 10, 2024.

The conference started with words filled with insights as Abao shared how false information is a critical issue in today's media landscape, bringing negative effects to a community. Discussing the three main sources of spreading fake news, misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation.

"Always remember that we as journalists can sometimes be the culprit or victim of misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation," she indicated how the media can sometimes contribute and confront the problem.

Leading to negative results, Abao depicted how a single misinformation can affect a whole community, influencing individuals to believe and also spread the acquired news.

He added strategies to combat misinformation through stronger fact-checking, critical thinking, encouragement to inform, and media literacy.

“You should always ponder and think twice before you disseminate information” SPEECH LAYOUT

In her closing statement, Abao encouraged every journalist to always have critical thinking ahead to ensure a piece of factual and trustworthy information.

Journalists aspire for Quality Education, survey says

Student-journalists from the Dipolog City Online Publishing English category have raised actions over the sustainable development goals to achieve in the year 2030.

In a recent survey, 80% of the respondents wished for quality education to be achieved and 20% desired decent work and economic growth.

“For the record, the Philippines is still in the lowest rank based on the qualities of its education, despite students spending 10 hours in the classroom. Quality education is the best choice to mold every student to the best of themselves,” a respondent stated, desiring hopes for the future education of every Filipino.

The Trinity University of Asia (TUA) reported that one of the issues is outdated curricula and conventional teaching methods challenge students' preparation for the modern world. This report highlights a large portion of a pivotal concern to strengthen the quality of education.

STRAIGHT NEWS

Hammerhead: ONLINE CLASH

Scribes exhibit journalistic excellence at Online Publishing DSPC 2025

Campus journalists in the category of online publishing converged on the second day of the Division Schools Press Conference (DSPC), held in Zamboanga del Norte National High School-Turnol on January 10, 2024.

The competition kicked off with an orientation to both collaborative desktop publishing and online publishing spearheaded by Teacher Ronald Randolf E. Abao, Special Science Teacher III.

"Freedom comes with great responsibility," SPEECH LAYOUT

For the English and Filipino categories, schools from Dipolog Medical Center (DMC), and Zamboanga del Norte National High School-Turnol (ZNNHS-T) were aiming for gold.

The highlighted competition is aimed at developing and enhancing the talents and skills of participants in online publishing.

The award-winning scribes will be acknowledged during the closing program in the presence of key DepEd officials.

Bangon Cebu: Vincentians and Interact Club Join Forces for Humanitarian Support

The Saint Vincent's College-BEC collaborated with Interact Club of Dipolog in Bangon Cebu Relief Operations and Donations to provide humanitarian aid and goods for families severely affected by Typhoon Tino.

Food and various supplies were collected from each student from the school to be given to those in need. It was handed to the club on October 14 and was officially delivered to Cebu and distributed to the people.

There where a lot families died, and lost their properties as the typhoon struck Cebu, which resulted to deprivation and hardship. This sparked the act of good will of Vincentians and pushed them to collaborate with the club in helping the affected people.

Many students from SVC were happy to witness and be part of the collaboration of the school and club, and are willing to help the people.

Meanwhile, the people who received the goods showed their gratitude to those who helped, and they are also trying to overcome the challenges and be resilient one step at a time by using the goods they received for their daily needs.

The collaboration of SVC-BEC and Interact Club of Dipolog carry on as they continue their generosity, compassion and will to help with the solidarity of the community.

DedpEd Begins Rollout of K-10 Curriculum

Department of Education (DepEd) has begun the gradual rollout of the revised K-10 curriculum or also known as MATATAG curriculum which would take over 5 years starting on SY 2024-2025. The main goal of the revised curriculum is to remove the previous curriculum, and improve the quality of basic education of Filipino youth to overcome future challenges by using 21st century skills.

They decided to implement it gradually by launching it's 1st phase which only include the kindergarten, Grade 1, 4, and 7. These grade level will serve as the transitioning point to a new and more effective education.

A lot of students complained about the education system of the Philippines where they are taught and asked to do a lot of school related things, but not all of it are useful in the future. The DepEd and teachers saw it too, that's why they come up to a new curriculum where minor subjects are reduced and focused more into the core and important subjects.

According to DepEd that the previous curriculum is loaded and congested where there are so much to teach, but there's not enough time to learn. This also indicates that even though our teachers and student are very exhausted, we are still left behind.

As of now, the Department of Education is currently making efforts to continue the implementation of K-10 curriculum.

The results of the curriculum has yet to be determined as it is still in process of implementing. The success of the new curriculum depends on the support and collaboration of the education sectors.

Dela Rosa Seeks Supreme Court Protection Against ICC Alleged Warrant Arrest

Senator Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa asked for a petition to the Supreme council (SC) seeking for a temporary restraining order (TRO) to the implementation of an alleged International Criminal Court (ICC) warrant arrest against him in connection with the war on drugs on Thursday, November 13.

Dela Rosa is asking the High Court to direct the Marcos Administration to refrain from enforcing any ICC warrant, red notice, or surrender request against him.

This warrant was presented since Dela Rosa was the one who was assigned as chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) back in July 2016 to April 2018 where he led the implementation of then-President Duterte’s anti-drug campaign that caused thousands of deaths.

Ombudsman Remulla claimed that the ICC had already issued a warrant against Dela Rosa, saying he had a copy of it on his phone but not an official document. While El Abdallah responded to Remulla’s statement and said “No, the ICC can’t confirm such news”.

Dela Rosa asked SC to block ang arrest warrant issued by ICC and cited the newly approved extradition rules where he emphasized that there should no surrender or turnover can occur unless a final judgement. However, an international law experts pointed out that the ICC is not a state and therefore extradition rules do not apply to ICC processes.

Ombudsman Remulla maintains that the ICC warrant exists, though unofficially. While Della Rosa still seeks protection from the alleged arrest warrant. ICC lawyer Kristina Contin also explained that ICC warrants are often filled under seal and not made public until an arrest is possible.

The unfixed issue about the alleged ICC-arrest warrant against senator “Bato” Dela Rosa remains uncertain with the all conflicting claims. As the SC works with his petition, this leaves tension between Philippines and ICC highlighting the questions for the country’s accountability, and sovereignty.

Monterazzas de Cebu Under Scrutinity: DENR Investigates After Typhoon Tragedy

Monterrazas de Cebu a large hill side development in Barangay Guadalupe has been linked between the project's water retention ponds and flooding in nearby lowland areas triggered by Typhoon Tino is now investigated by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on November 7, 20225 after .

Local officials and residents have urged the DENR to examine whether construction in Cebu's upland areas contributed to the flooding that caused a lot of death and societal disturbance.

The project was connected to the celebrity engineer Slate Young under “The Rise of Monterazzas” where they planed to create a brand new multi level modern contemporary house inspired by the beauty of the Banaue Rice Terraces, mimicking the natural mountain

photography of cebu which then reported for multiples environment violations, and had failed to secure water discharge permits that is linked with the flooding in the lowland area triggered by bagyong tino.

The DENR said that multistakeholder team of technical experts has been conducting an investigations and assessments, including compliance with environmental regulations and Environment Compliance Certificate (ECC) conditions.

The incident also sparked online debate over the balance between urban development and environmental protection in cebu. Where a lot of people are complaining about the construction since it affected the community at the bottom of the mountain and would endanger the environment.

Due to the construction of Monterazzas de Cebu, the flood had worsen and drown a lot of Cebuanos caused by Typhoon Tino. A lot of people died, and lost their properties.

The DENR has taken an action for the flooding issues, where they conducted its official investigation. The Cebuanos also have also made an action, where they called out the officials and people that are responsible for the incident.

The investigation of the DENR is still ongoing at the moment, this incident serves as a reminder to strictly adhere all the regulations before holding a big and environmental related project. The controversy continues to raise concern about responsible development and disaster-prone zones, emphasizing the importance of environmental safeguard, and responsible engineering practices for better environment.

SRCC Intensifies Search and Rescue Operation for 68 Missing after Typhoon Tino Devastation

Search and Rescue Council Cluster (SRCC) intensified the 3 days search and retrieval operations for the 68 people who are still missing after the Typhon Tino devastated parts of Negros Island.

The RDRRMC covered five towns and cities in Negros Occidental and Canlaon City in Negros Oriental. Commander Brigadier General Ted Dumosmog, 303rd Brigade and the team started their searching on November 13, and would end on November 15.

Donato Sermeno III, director of the Office of Civil Defense in NIR, described the situation as “alarming” and Malacañang has urged authorities to exhaust all efforts to find all the missing people.

A lot of search teams helped for the search and rescue operation including the Philippine Army, Navy, Coast Guard, and Police. Two Navy vessels have been deployed to nearby waters for expanded search and coverage. K-9 units and drones are also being used to locate victims.

The intensified three-day search and retrieval operations led by the Search and Rescue Council Cluster (SRCC) is still on going, and they've already found some people, and still continue searching for all the missing.

Co vs. Administration: Zaldy Co Accuses Marcos, Romualdez as Head of P100B Insertion

Former Ako Bicol Party-list Rep. Zaldy Co admits P100B budget-insertion, claims President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and former House Speaker Martin Romualdez as the mastermind behind the plan.

In a video statement in the bicameral conference committee (BICAM) budget deliberation on Friday, November 14, Co allege

the administration of "using all their resources" to silence him, and was even instructed to leave the Philippines with promise of protection from Marcos just for him to keep the information within himself.

Co stated that the P100B was originally for the DPWH 2025 budget, but Marcos and Romualdez ordered him to take the money through DBM Secretary Pangandaman relaying Marco's direct instructions for the insertions.

However, despite the statement and proofs, Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian urge the public to be cautious and verify Co's statements, even questioning if the video was authentic or AI-generated.

According to co, the loss of budget due to corruption, if verified, would affect and could have major implications on the integrity of the 2025 national budget.

The government took several actions in response to statements, and President Bongbong also responded to Co's claims where he fired "I challenge you to come home and take an oath on your allegations that I ordered the budget insertions".

As of the moment, Co hasn't yet respond to the President's challenge, and the investigation regarding with issue and P100B is still on going.

The issues surrounding Former Ako Bicol Party-list Rep. Zaldy Co between President Bongbong and Former House Speaker Romualdez sparked public comments and place the 2025 national budget under scrutiny. As the investigation continues, the outcome of this case should serve as cue to government transparancy, and accountability.

Iloilo on Alert: Schools Receives Multiple Bomb Threats in a Day

Bomb threats hit Ililo on November 17, prompting class suspension on 9 schools who received threat messages through Facebook and Messenger by 4:00 in the afternoon in just one day.

In one case, threat sent a message to WVSU Janiuay Campus saying “I’ve planted 3 bombs… GOODLUUCK!”, and specifically said the exact buildings and locations where bombs were allegedly planted.

The alleged cause of the bomb threat was stated in a message sent saying “unfair treatment” by faculty and favoritism toward certain student.

In taking action, Rep. Lorenz Defensor (3rd District Iloilo) responded and warned perpetrators of imprisonment for disrupting the operations of schools.

As the bomb threat continues, the Mayor emphasized that the threats endanger not only students but the entire city’s security, and it also keeps the families of the students worry.

To address the problem, the City Mayor Raisa Treñas announced a P100,000 reward for information leading to the identification of the culprits.

From this moment, no explosive has yet confirmed but the police and the authorities remain on high alert as the investigations are ongoing as more institutions report receiving similar messages.

The bomb threat issues in different schools of Iloilo has caused waves of fear and disruption to students and staff across the province, forcing authorities to act and respond for the safety of the students and community.

Catch-UP Fridays: Brawl Against Reading Difficulties in Filipino Students

Department of Education (DepEd) implemented a remediation program called “Catch-Up Fridays” to strengthen literacy for Filipino students who struggle with basic reading skills.

According to the regional assessment, 7 in 10 Filipino students struggles with their reading skills, while mathematics skills showed slight gains highlighting a persistent literacy gap in the country showing no real progress over the past few years.

This had drawn attention from lawmakers, educators, and child advocacy groups that’s why the education stakeholders took action to solve this dilemma and prevent more issues that would possibly lead to wider learning gaps in subjects like science, social studies , and language arts.

According to UNICEF and national surveys, many learners disconnect early from reading, which affects learning outcomes across all grade levels.

DepEd said that its reading program will “give learners opportunities for reading intervention and reading enhancement through developmentally appropriate reading materials.”

As of the moment, the Catch-Up Friday is still continuing to help Filipino students gain their reading proficiency and comprehension skills.

The implementation of DepEd’s Catch-up Fridays highlight the urgent need to solve the reading and comprehension inabilities of Filipino students for a strong workforce readiness and good future not just for the students, but also for the country.

Senate Probes Online Sexual Abuse of Children

Philippine senate is set to conduct inquiry into the proliferation of online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC), following a resolution filed by Senate Deputy Minority Leader Risa Hontiveros after the sharp increase in online sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

Senator Hontiveros stressed that technology has enabled offenders to proliferate abusive content quickly, and how it’s used to lure, exploit, and coerce minors into sexual activities that’s why she urge the Senate Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality to examine online platforms thoroughly.

For the past few years, online sexual abuse and exploitation of children has been a growing global concern, with minors increasingly vulnerable due to widespread internet and smartphone use.

Earlier Senate hearings noted that the Philippines is both a source and transit point for online exploitation materials, with criminal networks leveraging technology for abusive purposes that’s why they recommended policy reforms and tougher penalties to protect minors from digital abuse.

There were already existing legal frameworks for child’s protection such as Anti Ponography Act, and Anti-trafficking in Persons Act; however, online platforms demand updated enforcement mechanisms and expanded legal coverage to address new forms of abuse.

At its core, the senate’s probe online sexual abuse and exploitation of children helps in strengthening policy measures that helps prevent abuse, protect victims, and hold perpetrators accountable in a digital environment where traditional laws may lag behind online trends.

DepEd Denies Ban on School Christmas Party

Department of Education (DepEd) denied the claim about a circulating image that was posted on social media where DepEd announced that Christmas parties in schools are banned.

The clarification came after, and showed that the graphics used to spread the claim were fabricated, sometimes using fake logos to appear legitimate.

In DepEd's official response, there was no issued memorandum about the Christmas party celebration in schools and the existing DepEd guidelines on school Christmas parties remain untouched.

To avoid misinformation, students, teachers, and parents are encouraged to verify information through official channels like website and verified social media pages.

The department also reiterated the existing guidelines for the schools' Christmas party where the gifts exchanges, and contribution must be voluntary.

The official statement made through amid growing concerns about the fake news, and may this predicament serves as a reminder to people to rely with official accounts and avoid misinformationCabral's Death Under Scrutination After Flood Control Involvement.

Cabral's Death Under Scrutination After Flood Control Involvement

Former undersecretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Maria Catalina "Cathy" Cabral, a key figure with the flood control controversy fell from the cliff area near the highway that leads to death.

Cabral was found dead on December 18, 2025 near a ravine along Kennon Road in Tuba, Benguet after being missing the whole afternoon.

The circumstances of her death sparked public interest due to her prior role in the DPWH's planning and budget allocations, people questioning the autopsy's finding of having no signs of foul play and the death was caused by blunt injury consistent with a fall.

Along with Cabral's death allegations, the Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla confirmed that fingerprint comparison and initial forensic evidence matched Cabral's identity.

While initial speculation and public commentary arose around the nature of her death, authorities maintain that current forensic evidence shows no indication of external violence or foul play.

Investigators, including the Philippine National Police (PNP), are continuing their probe to clarify the circumstances. Searches of Cabral's hotel room and further evidence gathering have been undertaken.

The death of Maria Catalina “Cathy” Cabral has drawn and sparked public’s attention about the truth behind her death, while the public assures no foul play happened with the verification from the autopsy’s results. Despite the confirmation, investigators continue to search for a thorough probe about the issue.

Cebu Groups Protest on Bonifacio Day Against Corruption

People and civil society groups in Cebu gathered along colon street for a protest on Bonifacio day, November 30, 2025 against corruption and to call for accountability from national leaders.

The rally was part of a series of coordinated actions across the Philippines on the same day where protest pointed out the similarities between Marcus and Duterte, carrying the slogan “Marcos ug Duterte, Walay Kalahian” (translated as “Marcus and Duterte, no difference”)expressing the both administration are corrupt.

Activists used the occasion—Bonifacio Day a national holiday commemorating the birth of Andres Bonifacio, founder of the Katipunan and a symbol of resistance against colonial rule to highlight modern struggles against corruption and governance failures.

Jaime Paglinawan of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) Central Visayas said that the protest mirrors the actions of Andres Bonifacio, who demanded social justice amid an oppressive rule.

“This is our commemoration of the 162nd birthday of our hero, Andres Bonifacio, who truly struggled and revolted for change in our society,” he said in Cebuano.

The protest reflects growing public frustration over perceived corruption, lack of accountability in government spending, and slow progress on investigations into high-profile infrastructure controversies in the Philippines

The coordinated protest along Colon street in Cebu on Bonifacio Day shows the growing problem along with corruption and bad governance that has to be resolved by the government taking accountability and transparency.

Proposed 2026 budget of Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has been reduced under scrutiny.

Duterte Remains Behind Bars After ICC Rejects Interim Release

Appeal interim-release of former President Rodrigo Rua “Digong” Duterte was rejected by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on November 28, 2025.

The family and legal team of the former president requested to release him from detention due to its humanitarian consideration—age, alleged declining health, and cognitive decision—however the Appeals Chamber of ICC found no legal or factual error in the pre-trial chamber's risk assessment.

During the Trial, Duterte was not physically present, nor virtually present; he had to waive his right to appear, where his counsel represented him for the ruling that was read in open court by presiding judge Luz del Carmen Ibañez Carranza instead.

Despite the decision, the family of the former president said they accept the decision "with peaceful hearts", and pledged to continue supporting his legal team.

While the victim's family's reaction to the ICC's denial of the appeal was happy, according to them, "Hindi siya naka labas(Duterte)! salamat, talagang napakasaya namin, hindi lang ako, kundi lahat kami kasi hindi siya pinayagan kahit ilang beses na syang tinangkang palabasin" (He wasn't released! Thank you, we are really happy, not just me, but all of us because he was not allowed to leave even though they tried to get him out several times).

The ICC's next relevant step concerns determining whether he is fit to stand trial—an assessment separate from the interim release request, as Duterte remains detained at the ICC detention facility in Scheveningen, Netherlands.

The rejection of former President Duterte's interim-release request shows the ICC's strong stance on ensuring legal process despite the appeal on humanitarian grounds of his family and legal council. While Duterte's family accepts the decision peacefully, the victim's families expressed happiness and satisfaction for it's a step toward accountability.

Malacañang Reaffirms Marcos' Capability Amid Controversies

Malacañang Palace publicly reaffirmed that President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr remains capable of leading the government on November 27, 2025 in respond to remarks by critics and political rivals raising doubts about his ability to govern.

The Palace dismissed calls for alternate leadership or speculation about potential changes, framing such suggestions as attempts to show political instability amid controversies such as alleged irregularities in infrastructure and flood control projects.

This started when the public scrutinizations and questions was asked by a reporter to the President's Spoke Person—Clarissa "Claire" Castro-Seechung about the President's capabilities of leading the country with all of the issues going around.

The palace replies that there is no question about Marcos Jr.'s capacity to serve as President; they argued that he continues to fulfill his duties and responsibilities effectively.

Provincial leaders also recently reaffirmed their support for Marcos' leadership during a courtesy call with the President—an indication of ongoing political backing at the locak-government level.

The Palace has insisted that Marcos is not exempt from investigations and reiterated his willingness to be transparent and even undergo lifestyle checks

The Palace's assurance of President Marcos's capabilities of governing the country despite the controversies reflects its effort to maintain political transparency and stability.

COLUMN

REYAL OR FA-KE?

The continuous sharing of often unverified information — misinformation has always been a social phenomenon that constantly plagues our day-to-day lives. It can come from one source to another and the next; increasing the likelihood of the spreading of falsehoods, distorting the truth, or even causing harm to individuals' reputations.

When it comes to campus journalism, it truly stands as an issue, as journalistic integrity frankly relies on verified, fact-based, and accurate information, in contrast to the unknowing and speculative nature of misinformation.

According to Redline (2024) about one-third (33%) of journalists encounter false or fabricated information regularly when working on stories, with 8% saying they deal with falsehoods extremely often and 24% fairly often. This underscores how fake news caused by misinformation is a continuing issue that needs proper awareness.

As a student journalist, we always uphold the truth and provide truthful information, but we can sometimes be the culprit or victim because of the rapid spread of information the tendency for false information to be disseminated becomes more likely. But in the same way, it is our responsibility to know how to recognize fact from fake and uphold accuracy to the community.

In conclusion, while the rapid spread of false information can sometimes pose a threat, it also presents an opportunity for us to be mindful in combating misinformation. We must sustain the principles of truth, honesty, and integrity in providing factual information through fact-checking and upholding media literacy. This way we can safeguard the credibility of our work and foster a trusted community where misinformation cannot thrive.

AI breakthrough: The lost of intellectualism due to artificial intelligence dependency

Get to think of a world where students and teachers staying up late, working with their homework, and making their lesson plans. Is there anyone who still does that until now? Because as far as I know most of the students and teachers are now dependent to this system called Artificial Intelligence (AI) that is designed to mimic human intelligence, including reasoning, problem-solving, and decision-making.

There's this app called ChatGPT that would make them what you need in a matter of seconds after putting a prompt. For example, you ask it to make a thousand words essay about a certain topic for your homework and it would automatically give you what you asked for after a few seconds. Imagine, you can finish your homework that fast? Isn't it terrifying?

I agree that AI has a lot of advantages such as providing resources to underserved or remote areas, customizing learning experiences, and saves a lot of time to people, but the fact that it could diminished problem-solving skills, and risk potential academic dishonesty is just alarming.

AI could be a tool in the classroom, however due to its misuse and lack of guidance on AI usage, it has become a threat in classrooms, and education, generally. Students now tend to rely on AI with their assignments, essay and projects. Actually, there were 35% of students admitted that it affects their capabilities of thinking.

With that, i would ask you some questions, how about the learning of students? Would they can still learn when they will just ask an AI to make their essay and homework? It is just so sad to think that most of the students now aren't able to use their own talents and intelligence, due to being dependent on this system.

It is undeniable that these days, Artificial Intelligence (AI) spreads like wildfire. But we have to stop this, i'm not talking about stoping AI or the system its self because it's near impossible to do that, but instead the irresponsible way of using, and the over reliance.

So what are you waiting for? Wait for the AI to give you a solution for this? We people should take an action now before this gets worse, and we should take accountability for using it irresponsibly. We could use it as our guide and a helping hand, not a writer of our papers and works. We can solve this through educating people on how to properly use it to prevent the lost of intellectualism, and promote an effective and productive future.